thunders bend, ſpoke with how many fould and ſtrong a bond the child was bound to the father; ſir, in a fine, ſeeing how lothly oppoſite I ſtood to his vnnaturall purpoſe, with fell motion with his prepared ſword, he charges home my vnprouided body, launcht mine arme; but when he ſaw my beſt alarumd ſpirits bold in the quarrels right, rouzd to the encounter, or whether gaſted by the noiſe I made, but ſodainly he fled.

Gloſt. Let him flie farre, not in this Land ſhall he remaine vncaught and found; diſpatch, the Noble Duke my maſter, my worthy Arch and Patron comes to night, by his authority I will proclaime it, that he which findes him ſhall deſerue our thankes, bringing the murderous caytiffe to the ſtake, he that conceales him, death.

Baſt. When I diſſwaded him from his intent, and found him pight to do it, with curſt ſpeech I threatned to diſcouer him; he replied, Thou vnpoſſeſſing baſtard, doſt thou thinke, if I would ſtand againſt thee, could the repoſure of any truſt, vertue, or worth in thee make thy words faith'd? no: what I ſhould deny, as this I would, I, thogh thou didſt produce my very character, ide turne it all to thy ſuggeſtion, plot, and damned pretence, and thou muſt make a dullard of the world, if they not thought the profits of my death were very pregnant and potentiall ſpurres to make thee ſeeke it.

Gloſt. Strong and faſtened villaine, would he deny his letter? I neuer got him: harke, the Dukes trumpets, I know not why he comes; all Ports ile barre, the villaine ſhall not ſcape, the Duke muſt grant me that: beſides, his picture I wil ſend far and neere, that all the kingdome may haue note of him, and of my land, (loyall and naturall boy) ile worke the meanes to make thee capable.

Enter the Duke of Cornwall.

Corn. How now my noble friend, ſince I came hether, which I can call but now, I haue heard ſtrange newes.

Reg. If it be true, all vengeance comes too ſhort which can purſue the offender; how doſt my Lord?

Gloſt. Madam, my old heart is crakt, is crakt.

Reg. What, did my fathers godſon ſeeke your life? he whom my

my father named your *Edgar*?

Gloſt. I Lady, Lady, ſhame would haue it hid.

Reg. Was he not companion with the ryotous Knights that tends vpon my father?

Gloſt. I know not Madam, tis too bad, too bad.

Baſt. Yes madam, he was.

Reg. No maruaile then though he were ill affected,
Tis they haue put him on the old mans death,
To haue theſe——and waſte of this his reuenues:
I haue this preſent euening from my ſiſter
Beene well inform'd of them, and with ſuch cautions,
That if they come to ſoiourne at my houſe, ile not be there.

Duke. Nor I, aſſure thee *Regan*; *Edmund*, I heard that you haue ſhewne your father a child-like office.

Baſt. Twas my duty ſir.

Gloſt. He did betray his practiſe, and receiued
This hurt you ſee, ſtriuing to apprehend him.

Duke. Is he purſued?

Gloſt. I my good Lord.

Duke. If he be taken, he ſhall neuer more be feard of doing harme, make your owne purpoſe how in my ſtrength you pleaſe; for you *Edmund*, whoſe vertue and obedience doth this inſtant ſo much commend it ſelfe, you ſhall be curs, natures of ſuch deep truſt, we ſhall much need, you we firſt ſeize on.

Baſt. I ſhall ſerue you truely, how euer elſe.

Gloſt. For him I thanke your Grace.

Duke. You know not why we came to viſite you?

Regan. Thus out of ſeaſon, threatning darke eide night,
Occaſions noble *Gloceſter* of ſome prize,
Wherein we muſt haue vſe of your aduice,
Our father he hath writ, ſo hath our ſiſter,
Of defences, which I beſt thought it fit,
To anſwer from our hand, the ſeuerall meſſengers
From hence attend diſpatch, our good old friend,
Lay comforts to your boſome, & beſtow your needfull counſell
To our buſineſſe, which craues the inſtant vſe.

Exit.

Gloſt.